## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01837 260850 Z

20

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-14 STR-08

CEA-02 H-02 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 IGA-02 AGR-20 L-03

PA-03 /202 W

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R 260741 Z MAR 73 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6976

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E. O. 11652: N/ A TAGS: EAID, KS

SUBJECT: ROKG ASKS U. S. HELP DELAY EXCLUSION FROM IDA

BENEFICIARY LIST

SUMMARY: ROKG HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT KOREA WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR IDA LOANS AFTER JULY 1. KOREA REQUESTS USG ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING POSTPONEMENT. MISSION BELIEVES KOREAN REQUEST MAY POSSIBLY HAVE SUFFICIENT VALIDITY TO JUSTIFY USG SUPPORT.

1. ROKG FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS REQUESTED GOOD OFFICES OF U. S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IBRD TO OBTAIN RECONSIDERATION IBRD DECISION TO EXCLUDE KOREA FROM IDA LOAN FINANCING AS OF JULY 1, 1973. IBRD DECISION REPORTEDLY MADE ON BASIS KOREAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS RECENT YEARS AND FACT THAT 1972 PER CAPITA GNP OF \$302 ABOVE IDA \$300 CUT OFF LEVEL ESTABLISHED IN 1968. IN PRESENTING ARGUMENT TO EMBOFF, MOFA INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR CHOE, HO CHUNG STRESSED SERVICING REQUIREMENTS OF \$2.6 BILLION OUTSTANDING FOREIGN DEBT, EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN HTIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN, AND FACT KOREAN PER CAPITA INCOME IS STILL IN LOWER BRACKET OF DEVELOPING WORLD AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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## PAGE 02 SEOUL 01837 260850 Z

JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUED IDA PARTICIPATION IN KOREAN PROJECTS THROUGH 1976, PLAN'S FINAL YEAR. HE QUESTIONED VALIDITY OF \$300 IDA CUTOFF LEVEL NOW, IN VIEW DOLLAR INFLATION SINCE THAT LEVEL ESTABLISHED. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT REQUEST WOULD BE FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT, BUT IN VIEW CLEAR EVIDENCE KOREAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS, 1972 BALANCE PAYMENTS IMPROVEMENT, AND PROJECTIONS OF DECLINING DEBT SERVICE RATIO HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER USG - OR EVEN EMBASSY - WOULD SUPPORT ROKG REQUEST. CHOE INDICATED JAPANESE GAVE RELUCTANT PROMISE OF SUPPORT; NO RESPONSE YET FROM SIMILAR REQUESTS TO U. K. AND GERMANY.

- 2. COMMENT: KOREAN CASE IS OBVIOUSLY PART OF LARGER ISSUE OF STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF IDA RULE. ONLY VALID KOREAN ARGUMENT IN OUR VIEW IS THAT DOLLAR INFLATION AND DEVALUATIONS MAY JUSTIFY NEW BENCHMARK OR AT LEAST POSTPONEMENT OF PROMPT ACTION ON MARGINAL CASES, E. G. WAIT FOR GNP PER CAPITA TO EXCEED \$300 FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS, RATHER THAN ONE.
- 3. COPY MOFA AIDE MEMOIR BEING POUCHED. HABIB

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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To: AID SECSTATE WASHDC

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